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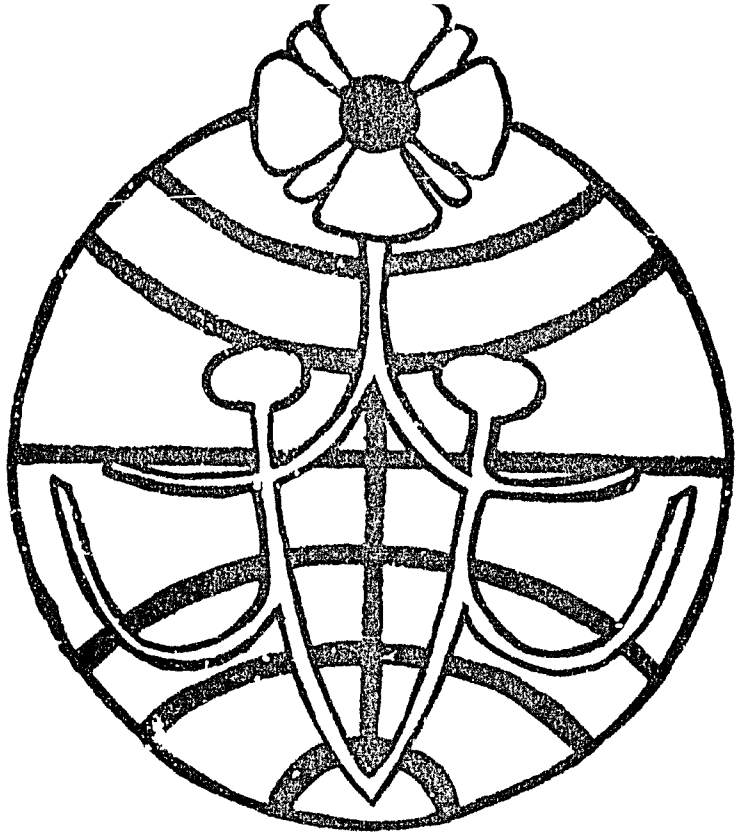
OPERATION BABYLIFT

REPORT



(Emergency Movement of Vietnamese and
Cambodian Orphans for Intercountry Adoption)

APRIL - JUNE, 1975

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON D.C. 20523

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Research Center
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OPERATION BABYLIFT

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PREFACE

This report is intended to be a summary of Operation Babylift for the files of the Agency for International Development (AID) and for future reference purposes. It is based on the best information available from those in AID who played key roles in the operation. Understandably, there are some differences in the statistics as reported by the various elements involved--AID/Saigon, military processing centers, adoption agencies and INS--but it is expected that the INS check on all Operation Babylift orphans paroled into the country now underway will rectify this situation.

We believe this report will be helpful to AID and of interest to others who were a part of the project and, therefore, we wish to acknowledge the efforts of those in AID who assisted in writing the report: Dr. T. C. Clark, Jr., Mr. Edward B. Marks, Mr. Bernard J. Salvo, Ms. Gloria Gallo, Mr. Wilson Adams, Mr. Emmett Turner and Mr. Robert King. Also, the role of Mrs. Wanda Klimkiewicz and Miss Jane Wasilewski, who did the typing, is acknowledged.

We also wish to recognize the dedicated efforts of the many individuals and organizations in the government and private sectors who contributed much to the success of Operation Babylift. Specific mention of their contributions is made throughout the report.

Cover: The symbol on the cover of this report was borrowed from the International Conference on Children and National Development held in Saigon in January 1975.

OPERATION BABYLIFT

I. Summary

Operation Babylift was initiated on April 2, 1975, with the intended purpose of providing transportation from Vietnam to the United States of approximately 2,000 orphans who were being processed for intercountry adoptions by seven U.S. voluntary agencies approved by the former Government of Vietnam (GVN) for that purpose. Funds were made available to the Military Airlift Command (MAC) of the Department of Defense (DOD) by the Agency for International Development (AID) for transportation and operating costs in reception/processing centers at military bases in the Pacific Area and on the West Coast of the U.S.

After the tragic crash of a C-5A on April 4, which took the lives of 78 of 228 orphans on board, Pan American Airways chartered flights arrived in San Francisco and Seattle on April 5 with 324 and 358 orphans sponsored by Friends For All Children and Holt International Children's Services respectively. The final flight of Operation Babylift, a MAC C-141 Medevac aircraft, with 42 children, who had been hospitalized at Pacific locations enroute to the U.S., arrived at McChord Air Force Base in Washington State on May 7.

A total of 2,547 children were processed under Operation Babylift. Of this number 602 were enroute to other countries, leaving a total of 1,945 for adoption in the U.S. The sponsoring agency of only one orphan remains unknown and the State of California plans to take the necessary action to obtain legal custody in order to process the child for adoption.

During Operation Babylift, there were nine deaths, seven orphans under 20 weeks of age. Fifteen percent of all orphans processed required hospitalization during the operation.

II. Background

For the past several years, seven private international and U.S. adoption agencies (Holt International Children's Services--Holt; Traveler's Aid-International Social Services of America--TAISSA; Friends For All Children--FFAC; United States Catholic Conference--USCC; Friends of Children of Vietnam--FCVN;

Pearl S. Buck Foundation--PBF; World Vision Relief Organization--WVRO), licensed by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, have been arranging for the adoption of Vietnamese orphans in the U.S. While AID provided some general financial support for four of these agencies, the agencies themselves were responsible for selecting orphans qualified for adoption, obtaining unconditional releases from legal guardians, obtaining the consent of the Vietnamese Government, obtaining U.S. visas, and selecting qualified U.S. parents. State agencies and state courts must, of course, ultimately approve adoptions. From 1970 to 1974, over 1,400 adoptions of Vietnamese children in the United States had been arranged this way. (Attachment A, "Adoptions--Vietnam.")

With the stress of the war, the almost ceaseless flight of refugees, the economic disruption resulting from inflation, and the departure of American troops, there was an increase in child abandonment. It was a major objective of the Vietnamese Ministry of Social Welfare, the American AID program and local and international voluntary agencies to help stem that tide by providing services and facilities such as day care centers which would encourage mothers not to give up their children. Nevertheless, there was an increase in overseas adoptions from 682 in 1973, to 1,362 in 1974, and 400 in the first three months of calendar 1975, of whom 223 came to the U.S.

Operation Babylift was initiated on April 2 in response to the emergency situation resulting from the communist military offensive in South Vietnam. Prospective adopting U.S. parents were concerned that Vietnamese orphans already selected for adoption, who might be physically endangered by active hostilities, would not be able to leave Vietnam expeditiously if normal, lengthy Vietnamese exit procedures and U.S. immigration procedures were followed. The possibility of further delay in these procedures because of the greatly increased number of requests from Vietnamese to go to the United States heightened these concerns. Furthermore, the vast increase in the number of refugees as a result of increased fighting was creating pressures on existing child welfare facilities. The voluntary agencies were having difficulty in arranging private flights and there was concern that they might unduly interfere with other evacuation plans. Adopting parents and a number of private agencies asked the U.S. Government to assist in expediting the movement to the United States of the Vietnamese orphans already approved for adoption to the United States. In addition, there were a number of independent efforts, most notably those of Mr. Edward J. Daly, President of World Airways, to charter aircraft and evacuate orphans without the necessary approvals from the authorities; these efforts caused much concern. (Mr. Daly flew 35 orphans of FCVN and others out of Vietnam April 2 on an unauthorized flight, one day prior to the initiation of Operation Babylift.)

In response to these concerns, AID agreed to reimburse the DOD for the cost of transporting and processing orphans qualified for adoption in the United States and approved by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam (GVN). AID made $2.6 million available for transportation, medical services and reception costs. As of July 15, expenditures for Operation Babylift totalled $1,405,700. (See Attachment B, "Operation Babylift-Financial Summary.") The American Mission in Saigon also agreed to consult with the pertinent Ministries of the GVN concerning arrangements for the departure. Finally, the Department of Justice agreed, pursuant to the Attorney-General's authority under Section 712(d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, to parole such orphans into the United States.

III. Orphan Flights

Operation Babylift had a tragic start with the crash, shortly after take-off, of the first scheduled flight, an Air Force C-5A. There were 228 orphans, sponsored by FFAC on the aircraft; 78 were killed and 150 survived. There were also six FFAC staff escorts who perished in the crash. (Figures on others--U.S. personnel and dependents--who died in the crash are not included in this report.)

As a result of the crash, FFAC chartered a Pan Am flight which arrived in San Francisco with 324 orphans on April 5. The orphans were received and processed at the Presidio Army Base, the first designated reception center under Operation Babylift. President and Mrs. Ford met and welcomed this flight.

On the same day, Holt also sponsored a Pan Am chartered flight which arrived in Seattle with 376 orphans, including 18 sponsored by the PBF. Most of these orphans were in good physical condition and were scheduled for onward movement to various points in the United States, no reception facilities were utilized (although Fort Lewis Army Base was on standby).

These first two chartered aircraft were arranged by the organizations themselves as private charters, but because of the circumstances which existed and the financial problems the agencies were experiencing, the charters were picked up and financed under Operation Babylift.

A total of 46 MAC or MAC-chartered flights were involved in Operation Babylift. Many of these were used to shuttle the orphans from Saigon to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Twenty-six Operation Babylift flights and six not under the sponsorship of Operation Babylift brought orphans to the United States. The six included three unauthorized World Airways flights and three regularly scheduled Pan Am flights which had small numbers of orphans on board. (Attachment C, "Flight Information.")

IV. Processing Procedures

When the Government of Vietnam gave approval on April 2 for the mass movement of the orphans, the seven U.S. adoption agencies submitted lists with the names of the orphans to the GVN's Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) for verification and to the USAID for transportation arrangements. (Attachment D, "Operation Babylift--Saigon.") Flights departed from Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport to Clark Air Force Base, the major intermediate processing center in the Pacific area, where the orphans rested, were provided necessary medical services including hospitalization if required, received a preliminary immigration screening and were manifested for onward travel, usually within 24 hours. The orphans received further medical assistance and hospitalization if required at the refueling stops of Andersen Air Force Base in Guam and Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii before arriving at one of the West Coast reception centers in the Continental United States. The orphans who remained behind at hospitals in the three Pacific processing centers were subsequently transported on Medical Evacuation (Medevac) or regular MAC flights.

The processing and reception centers in the United States were located at the West Coast bases of the Presidio of San Francisco, Long Beach Naval Support Activity (LBNSA) in California and Fort Lewis in Washington. The Presidio was the first center to be activated, April 2, and handled approximately 50% of the 1,990 orphans that were processed through the centers--1,313 as compared to 452 at Long Beach and 224 at Fort Lewis. (358 of Holt; 18 of PBF and 170 of An Loc/Tressler were not processed at the centers and therefore are not included.)

Because the Presidio was the first center to be established and because it processed the majority of the orphans, it also experienced the main problems. Since there had been no past experience in this type of operation, those involved at the Presidio had to evolve procedures on an ad hoc basis. In addition, flights were not well spaced and the large numbers of orphans who arrived in a short period of time overwhelmed the staff and facilities. As a result, Orphans Airlift, Inc., an organization of San Francisco area volunteers, emerged and assumed a controlling role rather than a supportive role in the operation (additional information is contained in Attachment E, "Operation Babylift--Presidio of San Francisco, California").

The Long Beach and Fort Lewis Centers, activated on April 12 and April 29 respectively, experienced fewer problems than the Presidio. This perhaps was due to the experience gained from the Presidio operation and to the organization, control and facilities involved.

The Long Beach operation began with the arrival of the first flight at the Los Angeles International Airport on April 12 with 328 orphans

aboard, including 196 from An Loc Orphanage in Saigon, sponsored by Mrs. Betty Tisdale in cooperation with the PBF. There was some initial confusion due to the pressure of dignitaries, the press and the curious as well as with the insistance of Mrs. Tisdale that her orphans move immediately onward to Fort Benning, Georgia. LBNSA officials arranged for subsequent flights to land at the Naval Air Station at Los Alamitos where adequate security measures were in effect. The complete responsibility for recruitment and assignment of volunteers was given to the American Red Cross. (Additional information is contained in Attachment F, "Operation Babylift--Long Beach Naval Support Activity, California.")

Although the Fort Lewis center had the lightest activity, it perhaps was the best organized and equipped operation. The physical facilities at Fort Lewis were ideally suited for the task--spacious and isolated from other base and city activity, unlike the facilities at the other two centers. In addition, the three military commands involved--Fort Lewis, Madigan Army Medical Center and McChord Air Force Base--cooperated fully in this joint, coordinated project. Volunteers participated fully through the Fort Lewis Army Community Services Division. (Additional information is contained in Attachment G "Operation Babylift--Fort Lewis Army Installation, Washington.")

V. Orphans Processed

Information obtained from the adoption agencies or processing centers indicates that a total of 2,547 orphans were processed under Operation Babylift. Of this total, 602 went on to other countries, leaving a total of 1,945 in the United States. (Attachment H, "Operation Babylift--Total Orphans Processed.")

Information received from the adoption agencies brings out a number of interesting facts about the orphans processed. Over 41% were under the age of eight; 57% were male and 43% female, and 23% or 451 orphans were racially mixed of which 173 (38.2% of the racially mixed) were of Black paternity. (Attachment I, "Adoption Agency Reports--Status of Operation Babylift.")

One disappointing figure is that only 34 (19.6% of the 173 Black-fathered orphans were placed in Black homes. The program of the Interagency Vietnam Adoption Committee (IVAC)*, which was established for the purpose of identifying homes for Black-Vietnamese orphans, was overtaken by the sudden crisis in Vietnam. IVAC was in the process of identifying Black homes, 130 inquiries were received and 42 home studies were completed, but the effort was too late to yield fruitful results. Only 17 Black-Vietnamese children--14 referred by TAIBSA and three by Holt--were placed by IVAC.

*IVAC consisted of 20 agencies including seven Black adoption and or social welfare agencies and nine other agencies that processed adoptions in Vietnam or had a close interest in child welfare in Vietnam.

A total of 108 Cambodian orphans departed the country in March and April 1975, for intercountry adoption. Of this total, 54 were processed under Operation Babylift and are experiencing legal problems regarding their adoptability and/or placements. (See VIII. C.) The largest group, 42 orphans from a Canadian-supported orphanage in Phnom Penh and sponsored by FFAC, were transported to Saigon by a USG chartered aircraft on March 17, prior to Operation Babylift. After a period of rehabilitation with FFAC in Saigon, they departed by commercial airlines to Canada (35 orphans) and the U.S. (seven orphans). The remaining 12 orphans, not under Operation Babylift, were placed by Neighbor's Aid to Asia (NATA), an American organization based in Oklahoma, and Terre des Hommes, a German voluntary agency.

VI. Hospitalizations

Of the 1,990 orphans that were processed through the three West Coast Centers (358 of Holt, 18 of PBF and 170 of An Loc/Tressler not included), 304 orphans or 15% required hospitalization after their arrival on the West Coast.

Usually, the orphans who were abandoned and referred to the agencies for adoption were those in the poorest of health, but the adoption agencies, under normal circumstances, nursed them back to good physical condition prior to departure from Vietnam. The abrupt departure of many children who were in the process of rehabilitation, and the transporting of them in large groups increased the numbers requiring hospitalization. The principle causes for hospitalization were: dehydration, otitis media, impetigo, scabies, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, malnutrition, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections and suppurative skin lesions. (Attachment J "Operation Babylift--Orphans Processed and Hospitalized--West Coast Centers.")

VII. Deaths

Of the 2,547 orphans processed under Operation Babylift, there were nine deaths, seven whose ages were known were 20 weeks of age or younger. Considering that 51% of the orphans were under two years of age and that many of the orphans were in poor physical condition, the medical services provided during Operation Babylift were very effective. The deaths were attributed to septicemia, dehydration, diarrhea and pneumonia. Burials were carried out by the concerned processing centers--Clark Air Force Base (3), Fort Lewis (2), Long Beach (2), Guam (1) and Presidio (1)--with the permission of the known sponsoring agencies and under the auspices of Operation Babylift. (Attachment K, "Operation Babylift, Deaths.")

VIII. Special Problems

A. Unauthorized World Airways Flights

There were three flights completed by World Airways, Inc. which brought Vietnamese orphans (as well as adults) to the U.S. These flights had neither the approval of the U.S. Government nor the Vietnamese Government.

The first flight on April 2 carried 45 orphans sponsored by FCVN mentioned earlier in the report. This was the first flight of orphans out of Vietnam. Mr. Daly had attempted to get other adoption agencies to move their orphans on this flight but he was successful only in obtaining 45 orphans from FCVN.

The second flight occurred on April 22 and involved 104 orphans under the sponsorship of Father Crawford, a Catholic priest who had been in Indochina for 20 years or more. (Also on the flight were employees of various U.S. businesses in Saigon and Vietnamese officials including 47 children.) The orphans were taken to Mt. Angel, Oregon, on April 23, but the majority of them have been dispersed since then. There are 12 polio-afflicted boys with Father Crawford in Tucson, Arizona; 30 polio-afflicted girls are in the care of the Sisters of Charity in Los Angeles; 17 orphans were turned over to the Benedictine Sisters at Mt. Angel, but nine of these were identified as those sponsored by the PBF for the Michigan Department of Social Services. The remaining 45 orphans (plus an additional 47 children not processed under Operation Babylift) were reunited with their parents or other relatives.

The third flight on April 26 brought with it 215 Montagnard (Highlander) children from Vietnam who were destined for Denmark under the sponsorship of the Danish-Vietnamese Society and Children's Protection and Security International (CPSI), two Danish organizations assisting Vietnamese children. Arrangements were made by the Danish Government for onward travel to Copenhagen. The present government of South Vietnam has requested the return of the children. The Danish Government has agreed to the request, but the CPSI has appealed the decision to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Although the flights mentioned above were not officially sanctioned by the proper authorities, the children were processed and provided interim care at the Presidio Operation Babylift center as a humanitarian gesture.

B. An Loc/Tisdale Orphans

There were several complications which arose relating to the 196 orphans from An Loc Orphanage in Saigon who were being reported by a U.S. organization, An Loc Orphanage, Inc. Mrs. Betty Tisdale, President of the U.S. organization and wife of an Army Colonel at Fort Benning, Georgia, went to Vietnam and arranged for the release of the orphans through the PBF, one of the agencies approved by the GVN to process intercountry adoptions.

The problem relating to the arrival of the group at Los Angeles International Airport has been mentioned previously. The immediate departure of the group for Los Angeles to Fort Benning left immigration formalities incomplete, resulting in a delay of several weeks before all the children were identified and the formalities completed.

At Fort Benning, Mrs. Tisdale refused to give PBF full authority for the placement of the children and the resulting conflict required mediation at a meeting in which AID participated. The outcome was that PBF withdrew entirely from responsibility for the children and it was transferred to Tressler Lutheran Services, a licensed adoption agency in Pennsylvania. After about a month of foster care in an established facility in Fort Benning, all of the children were placed in adoptive homes. Operation Babylift assumed no responsibility for the costs incurred while the children were in foster care status.

C. Cambodian Orphans

The situation in Cambodia differed from that in Vietnam in that there was no officially sanctioned program or licensed adoption agencies working in the country. When word came from Phnom Penh shortly before that city fell that there were orphans cleared and sponsored by the Ministry of Refugees for overseas adoption, arrangements were made to parole some of these orphans into the United States.

There were two main groups of Cambodian orphans involved under Operation Babylift. The placement of the orphans in both groups in adoptive homes has been held up because of questions raised regarding their adoptability and/or prospective placement. Due to the emergency situation which existed at the time, the sponsoring agencies and the government did not obtain the proper releases or process other required documentation.

The first group, 23 orphans, was sponsored by WVRO. This agency was one of the organizations which processed adoptions in Vietnam and assisted refugees in Cambodia. The orphans are awaiting the outcome of an

investigation into their legal status by the California State Department of Social Services as well as litigation now pending in the courts. Dr. Richard Scott, an interested party on behalf of the orphans, filed suit in Los Angeles for the purpose of determining whether or not their constitutional rights, especially as they relate to religion, have been violated. The allegation is that Family Ministries, a California-licensed adoption agency making the placements, approved only evangelical Protestant families for the placements. A hearing is scheduled for September 16, 1975.

The 31 children in the second group, 19 of whom are nine years of age and older, are the subject of an ongoing Immigration and Naturalization Service check, initiated on April 17, at the request of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law. The children were paroled into the United States, at Los Angeles, on April 13, 1975, for humanitarian reasons and under the sponsorship of the Cambodian Children's Relief Organization (CCRO), an ad hoc group formed in the U.S. following a request by the Cambodian Ambassador for assistance to evacuate several hundred orphans.

WVRO originally had agreed to serve as the sponsor for CCRO; but with the evacuation of their personnel from Cambodia, WVRO was not able to complete the casework and the legal formalities and withdrew as the sponsor. As a result, the children arrived in the United States without the required documents. Allegations were made that some of the children were not true orphans, making them ineligible for adoption under the conditions for parole agreed to by the Department of State and the Attorney General, as consented to by the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Based on INS interviews with the children, four were found eligible for adoption, four are in a questionable stage of eligibility and 20 stated that they had living parents or relatives. One child was too ill for questioning and there are two infants about whom information is not yet available.

There is no final decision at this time as to the ultimate disposition of those children who may not be adoptable. INS has sent forms to the three adoption agencies, which were given temporary custody of the children by CCRO, to be completed for those who choose to return to Cambodia (two are known to desire to do so). The three adoption agencies are: The Barker Foundation, Lutheran Social Services and Pierce-Warwick Adoption Service.

D. Adoption Lawsuit

On April 29, 1975, a class action suit was filed in the Federal District Court in San Francisco on behalf of Vietnamese

children brought to the United States for adoption. The suit seeks to enjoin adoption proceedings until it has been ascertained either that the parents or appropriate relatives in Vietnam have consented to their adoption or that these parents or relatives cannot be found.

The Complaint alleged that several of the Vietnamese orphans brought to the United States under Operation Babylift stated they are not orphans and that they wish to return to Vietnam.

The action has been brought by Muoi McConnell, a former Vietnamese nurse, who allegedly interviewed Vietnamese children at the Presidio in San Francisco. The suit is supported by an ad hoc group called The Committee to Protect the Rights of Vietnamese Children. Spokesmen for the Committee are Thomas R. Miller, an attorney, and his wife, Tran Tuong Nhu, who is the head of an organization known as the International Children's Fund.

The Federal Court refused, on May 1, to issue a temporary restraining order. On May 19-20, the Court held a hearing on the request for a temporary injunction. At that hearing the United States District Attorney representing the Federal Government defendents (Edward Levi, Henry Kissinger, James Schlesinger, et al.) presented testimony from several Government witnesses. The AID representative testified that AID financed the portal-to-portal military airlift of Vietnamese orphans at the instance of seven intercountry adoption agencies approved by the Vietnamese Government. He testified that AID at no time assumed legal custody of the children.

As a result of the hearing, the District Court judge stated his intention to issue an order directing the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to investigate and conduct a record check on each of the Vietnamese children brought into the U.S. by the seven adoption agencies. The Service likewise was directed to send letters to the adoption agencies and prospective adoptive parents alerting them to the investigation. The purpose of this investigation was to ascertain the legal admission status as an orphan into the U.S. of each of the children.

INS raised questions about the Court's proposed order, and at a hearing held June 9, the Attorney General's Office submitted a substantial memorandum of opposition to it based on the normal steps being taken by INS to determine the legal admission status of each orphan. The plaintiffs requested that the judge deny the petition so they could take the case to the Court of Appeals, but the judge refused.

On June 25, at a hearing for the purpose of reporting progress by INS, the judge was satisfied with the procedures and efforts of INS and gave

INS 90 days to complete the task of verifying their legal status as orphans. In addition INS was ordered to submit plans for overseas investigations to determine the existence of living guardians for the children and to provide for the repatriation of those children who are found to be illegally here and whose families have been located.

INS and the adoption agencies should be able to establish clear orphan status for most of the children brought to the United States under their auspices. Where records have been destroyed, such as those lost in the crash of the C-5A, the process of verifying the true orphan status of certain of the children may be time-consuming. There may, of course, be other children who were transported in haste to the United States with inadequate documentation to vouch for parental consent to their adoption or to demonstrate that they are without parents or relatives. The search initiated by the INS will seek to clarify all these cases.

IX. Public Reactions

The Babylift resulted in an enormous outpouring of public interest in the United States. Part of this was generated as an emotional response to the rapidly deteriorating military situation that led to the fall of South Vietnam. Many offers to adopt Vietnamese children were received at the headquarters of Operation Babylift in Washington and by the individual adoption agencies. The telephone line circuits were flooded with calls from couples interested in adopting a child. There are older, physically handicapped, and Black American children available for adoption but generally the demand for infants far exceeds the supply. It was this fact, plus the strong desire of Americans to express sympathy toward the Vietnamese people that induced the overwhelming surge of inquiries, including a large number that came to State/AID from Congressional sources. It was difficult to convince applicants that only a limited number of Vietnamese children would qualify for admission and that these for the most part had already been placed with selected families or would be going to investigated homes on the waiting lists of the approved agencies.

Not everyone was in favor of the babylift. There were allegations at the time, often based on faulty information, that the U.S. Government was engaged in a wholesale effort to remove Vietnamese children from their culture, to save them from communist ideological influence, to satisfy the desires of Americans wishing to adopt children, and to gain sympathy in the Congress for last-ditch appropriations for military and humanitarian aid to the tottering Government of South Vietnam.

None of these allegations approaches the truth. The fact is that the departure of these children from South Vietnam was the continuation of an intercountry adoption program that had been going on for some years. The movement of the children was accelerated due to the growing crisis in Vietnam. But, with negligible exceptions, the children met the criteria for intercountry adoption and virtually all of them were in some stage of processing when the decision was taken to speed up the movement.

X. A Coordinated Effort

Operation Babylift was a joint endeavor to which many contributed. There were the adoption agencies who were stretched to the limit in receiving, within a short time, a large number of children who needed to be met, transported and united with their adoptive parents. There was the military which not only arranged for the flights but also managed the feeding, shelter and medical screening at the transit facilities enroute and the reception centers on the West Coast where the children were cared for and were, if necessary, referred for medical attention and hospitalization. We would like to pay special tribute to the flexibility of the military in coping successfully with this unexpected and in some ways unprecedented operation. There were the many volunteers, including large contingents from the American Red Cross, who assisted in the reception process at all hours of the day and night. Finally, there were the representatives of AID in Saigon, Washington, and at the reception centers on the Pacific Coast who maintained a 24-hour service during the weeks of the Babylift.

ADOPTIONS--VIETNAM

Attachment A

ADOPTIONS--VIETNAM

	CY 1970-71	CY 1972	CY 1973*	CY 1974
Total Adoptions	200	485	682	1,362*
Adopted in U.S.	89	119	375	845**

* Includes 1,062 adoptions completed by seven MSW-Authorized Agencies listed below; and estimated 300 completed through other than agency channels.

** Includes 150 adoptions completed through other than agency channels.

ORPHANS
(estimated)

Total full or hand orphans	1,200,000
Children of fallen servicemen receiving benefits from the Ministry of War Veterans	805,000
Vietnamese children in registered orphanages	17,055
Mixed children in registered orphanages*	945
Children in non-registered orphanages or "homeless"	5,000
Other children living with mothers or relatives	372,000

* There are an estimated 10,000-15,000 children with foreign fathers (mixed children), with the exception of 945 in orphanages, (312 of [illegible] are black-Vietnamese) all are living with their mothers or relatives.

U.S. Voluntary Agencies Authorized by the GVN/MSW to Process Inter-country Adoptions

- [illegible] for All Children (FFAC)
- International Children's Services (Holt)
- [illegible] Aid-International Social Services of America (TAISSA)
- [illegible] Relief Services (CRS)
- [illegible] Relief Organization (WVRO)
- [illegible] Children of Vietnam (FCCVN)
- [illegible] Base Foundation (YBF)

ADOPTIONS -- VIETNAM

CALENDAR YEAR 1971-1974

CY 1970-1971									200*.
CY 1972									485*
CY 1973	FFAC	Holt	TAISSA	CRS	WVRO	FCVN	PBF	Independent Channels	Total
Adopted in U.S.	298	30	29	0	18	-	-	UNK	375
Adopted in Other Countries	285	0	14	0	8	-	-	UNK	307
Total Adoptions	583	30	43	0	26	-	-	UNK	682
CY 1974									
Adopted in U.S.	323	182	65	58	7	54	6	150	845
Adopted in Other Countries	337	2	26	2	0	0	0	150	517
Total Adoptions	660	184	91	60	7	54	6	300	1,362

* No breakdown by agency available

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATION BABYLIFT

Financial Summary
As of July 15, 1975

A. Obligations		
1. Transportation and Reception		$2,000,000
2. Medical Services		600,000
	Total	$2,600,000
B. Disbursements		
1. Transportation and Reception		$ 16,400
2. Medical Services		8,300
		$ 24,700
C. Bills on Hand *		$1,381,000

* SER/FM is holding up payment to DOD until they can be verified as allowable costs under the agreement.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

OPERATION BABYLIFT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

ITEM NO	FLT. NAME NUMBER	ORIGIN DESTINATION		ETA ETD DATE	ETA ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATIONALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
1	Air France	DEP ARR	Saigon Canada	04/02/75		Orphans	20	UN		Complete	6 to UT; 12 to Mass; 2 to NY
*(2)	WorldAir 805	DEP ARR	Saigon Oakland	04/02/75		Orphans Escorts	58 14	UN		Complete	FCVN
3	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/02/75		Orphans	200			Aborted	C5A Accident--Number of Orphans is Est.
*(4)	PAA 842	DEP ARR	Saigon SanFran	04/03/75 04/06/75	0038	Orphans Escorts	18 6	UN		Complete	707
(5)	PAA E93405	DEP ARR	Saigon Seattle	04/05/75 04/06/75	1800 0036	Orphans Escorts	409 72	UN US		Complete	747 Holt, PBF
(6)	PAA E95205	DEP ARR	Saigon SanFran	04/05/75 04/05/75	1900 2130	Orphans Escorts	319 21	UN		Complete	747--Two Orphans Remain Hospitalized at Yokota AFB--FFAC
7	MAC 1963-04	DEP ARR	Saigon Clark AFB	04/05/75 04/05/75	1830	Orphans Escorts	100 23	UN		Complete	C141
8	MAC 1963-05	DEP ARR	Saigon Clark AFB	04/05/75 04/05/75	1600	Orphans Escorts	30 5	UN		Complete	C141

* Not Operation Babylift Flights
( ) Flights Arriving in CONUS

ITEM NO	FLT. NAME NUMBER		ORIGIN DESTINATION	ETA ETD DATE	ETA ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATIONALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
(9)	MAC	DEP	Clark AFB	04/06/75	0342	Orphans	56	UN		Complete	Depart Time = Z
	1963-05	ARR	Travis AFB	04/06/75	1715	Escorts	30				
						WV ADUL	3				
10	MAC	DEP	Clark	04/06/75	0600	Orphans	72	UN		Complete	Depart Time = Z
	1963-07	ARR				Mixed	20				C-141
11	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/06/75	0502	Adults	48	US		Complete	Dep & Arr Times ≠ Z
	1963-08	ARR	Clark AFB	04/06/75	0754						
12	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/06/75	0806	Adults	70	US		Complete	Dep & Arr Times = Z
	1963-09	ARR	Clark AFB	04/06/75	1025						
13	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/06/75	1643	Orphans	79	UN		Complete	Dep & Arr Times = Z
	1963-10	ARR	Clark AFB	04/06/75	1815	Escorts	28				C-141
14	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/06/75	1709	Orphans	79	UN		Complete	C-141
	1963-11	ARR	Clark AFB	04/06/75	2024	Escorts	28				
15	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/06/75	1900	Adults	48	US		Complete	
	1963-12	ARR	Clark AFB	04/06/75	2215						
16	Can Pacif	DEP	Hong Kong			Orphans	7	UN		Complete	Seven out of 90
	402	ARR	Vancouver	04/06/75	1100						Orphans with US Visas
17	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/07/75	1508	Orphans	99	UN			
	1963-16	ARR	Clark AFB	04/07/75	1910	Escorts	20				
18	MAC	DEP	Saigon	04/07/75	1508	Orphans	110	UN		Complete	
	1963-17	ARR	Clark AFB	04/07/75	2230	Escorts	20				

( ) Flights Arriving in CON US

ITEM NO	FLT.NAME NUMBER		ORIGIN DESTINATION	ETD DATE	ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATION-ALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
(19)	MAC 1963-18	DEP ARR	Clark AFB CON US	04/07/75 04/07/75	1946 2151	Orphans Escorts	65 30	UN		Complete	
(20)	MAC 1964-01	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Travis AF	04/08/75 04/08/75	0851 0915	Orphans Escorts	291 73	UN		Complete	DC 10
21	PAA Unknown										Flight Cancelled Per Pan Am, NY
22	WVRO Charter	DEP ARR	Phnom Penh Bangkok	04/08/75 04/08/75		Orphans Escorts	22	Khmer		Complete	CNCT UTAPAO/CLRK Flt LN 24
23	Bird Air C-130	DEP ARR	Phnom Penh UTAPAO	04/09/75 04/09/75	1727 1827	Orphans Escorts	30 13	Khmer		Complete	Interfacing with MAC Flt(s) UTAPAO TPANS to Clark Fl 23
24	MAC C-141 1963-19	DEP ARR	UTAPAO Clark AFB	04/09/75 04/09/75	1445 1815	Orphans Escorts	52 10	Khmer		Complete	
25	MAC C-141 1963-20										Not utilized for Babylift at UATAPO
(26)	MAC PLP 552	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Travis AF	04/09/75 04/09/75	0229 1800	Orphans	9	UN		Complete	Orphans heldover at Clark (6) and Hckhm (3) for medical reasons. Going to CON US
*(27)	Pan Am Two-07	DEP ARR	Tokyo San Fran	04/09/75 04/10/75	0605 0826	Orphans Escorts	2 2	UN		Complete	Orphans heldover at Yokota AFB from World Airways Flt 805 for medical reasons--FCVN

* Not Operation Babylift Flight
( ) Flights Arriving in CON US

ITEM NO	FLT NAME NUMBER		ORIGIN DESTINATION	ETA ETD DATE	ETA ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATIONALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
28	MAC C-141 Y5A7MX	DEP ARR	Saigon Clark AFB	04/11/75 04/11/75	1515	Orphans	120	UN		Complete	
29	MAC C-141 3613-10	DEP ARR	Saigon Clark AFB	04/11/75	1530	Orphans	133	UN		Complete	
(30)	MAC 1965-WA #748	DEP ARR	Clark AFB L.A.	04/12/75 04/12/75	1111 0843	Orphans Escorts	330 30	UN--Khmer		Complete	Includes 22 Orphans Destined for Norway, 52 Khmer to U.S.
*(31)	Pan Am Two-10	DEP ARR	Tokyo San Fran	04/11/75 04/12/75	0600 0830	Orphans Escorts	2 2	UN		Complete	2 Orphans From Line 4 Above Released from Hospital -- FFAC
32	World Air #801	DEP ARR	Saigon Clark AFB	04/10/75 04/10/75		Orphans Escorts	22	UN		Complete	See Clark Babylift SITREP No. 23 (Norwegian)
(33)	MAC PLP 552	DEP ARR	Clark AFB San Fran	04/12/75 04/12/75	1350	Orphans Escorts	12 1	UN		Complete	Orphans Heldover at Clark(3) & Hckm(9) for medical reasons going to CON US
34	MAC 40640	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Hickam	04/14/75 04/14/75	1017 1747	Orphans	1			Complete	Taken to parents in in CON US by agents parents
35	MAC 40635	DEP ARR	Saigon Clark AFB	04/15/75 04/15/75	0800 1015	Orphans Escorts	44 10	UN		Complete	Scheduled CRS-- 28 walking; 16 infants
(36)	MAC 1963	DEP ARR	Los/Ala	04/16/75 04/16/75	0800	Orphans Escorts	45 9				C-141 -- CRS

* Not Operation Babylift Flights

( ) Flights Arriving in CON US

ITEM NO	FLT. NAME NUMBER		ORIGIN DESTINATION	ETA ETD DATE	ETA ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATIONALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
(37)	MAC 60129	DEP	Clark AFB	04/16/75	1600	Orphans	43				C-141 onward of 40635 28 walking;15 infants ARR Time -- PDT
		ARR	Los Alemi	04/16/75	1930						
(38)	Medevac 50268	DEP	Clark AFB	04/19/75	0218	Orphans	9			Complete	
		ARR	Travis AF	04/19/75	2110						
*(39)	World Air #803	DEP	Yokota	04/22/75	0538	Orphans	76	VN		Complete	Flight sponsored by E. Daly, WA. No U.S. financing involved except Presidio of San Francisco
		ARR	Oakland	04/22/75	0538						
(40)	Medevac #552	DEP	Clark AFB	04/23/75		Orphans	5	VN			Placed in David Grant Hospital
		ARR	Travis AF	04/23/75	2350Z						
41	MAC 40625	DEP	Clark AFB	04/24/75	0901Z	Orphans	24	VN		Complete	18 off-loaded at Hickam
		ARR	Hickam	04/24/75	1916Z						
42		DEP	Saigon	04/25/75		Orphans	203	VN	15		Reporter arrived Hickam but no data regarding flight. See Hickam cable 260655Z April 75
		ARR	Hickam								
43	MAC 60168	DEP	Saigon	04/25/75	1525	Orphans	59	VN	9		Sponsored by Pearl S. Buck Foundation
		ARR	Guam			Escorts	2				
*(44)	WAO 693	DEP	Saigon	04/26/75	0338	Orphans	199	VN			Hickam Cable 260655Z Apr 75. The orphans are Montagnard under sponsorship of Danish Vietnamese Society
		ARR	Hickam/ Oakland								

* Not Operation Babylift Flights

( ) Flights Arriving in CON US

ITEM NO	FLT NAME NUMBER		ORIGIN DESTINATION	ETA ETD DATE	ETA ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATION-ALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
*(45)	SAAM 1967-08	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Long Beach	04/26/75 04/27/75	0920Z 2000PDT	Orphans	63	VN	3 3		33 for Holt 30 for FCVN
*(46)	MAC 1967-09	DEP ARR	Clark Los Ala	04/26/75 04/27/75	1300Z 0300PDT	Orphans	65	VN			FCVN
*(47)	MAC 1967-10	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Travis AF	04/26/75 04/27/75	0800Z 1853PDT	Orphans Escorts	55 8	VN			Includes a number of orphans transiting US to Europe
*(48)	MAC 1967-11	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Los Ala	04/27/75 04/28/75	1148Z 2211Z	Orphans	51	VN			FCVN & CRS
(49)	MAC 1967-38	DEP ARR	Guam Travis	04/27/75 04/27/75	1908Z 0924	Orphans	35	VN			Pearl Buck
(50)	MAC 1967-70	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Los Ala	04/28/75 04/29/75	0823Z 0300Z	Orphans	61	VN			55 CRS, 6 FCVN
(51)	MAC 1967-71	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Travis AF	04/28/75 04/29/75	1313Z 0613Z	Orphans	65	VN			All FFAC
(52)	MAC 1967-72	DEP ARR	Clark AFB McChord	04/29/75 04/30/75	0830Z 1030Z	Orphans	65	VN			FFAC; WMJC
(53)	MAC 1967-73	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Los Ala	04/29/75 04/30/75	2330Z	Orphans	41	VN			FCVN; CRS
(54)	Medevac 852 X	DEP ARR	Clark AFB Travis AF	04/29/75 04/30/75	200Z		4	VN			
(55)	MAC 1965-80	DEP ARR	Guam El Toro	04/29/75	2145Z	Orphans	3	VN			An Loc/Tressler

* Not Operation Babylift Flights
( ) Flights Arriving CON US

ITEM NO	FLT.NAME NUMBER		ORIGIN DESTINATION	ETA ETD DATE	ETA ETD TIME	TYPE PSGR	NBR PSGRS	NATION-ALITY	HOSP CASES	CURRENT STATUS	REMARKS
(56)	MAC 1977-46	DEP	Clark AFB	04/30/75	0800Z	Orphans	65	VN			FFAC & VACF(CRS)-- Welcome House
		ARR	McChord	05/01/75	0230Z						
(57)	MAC 1977-47	DEP	Clark AFB	04/30/75	1300Z	Orphans	50	VN			FFAC & VACF(CRS)--
		ARR	McChord	05/01/75	0730Z						
(58)	AF Medevac 1978-78	DEP				Orphans	42	VN			FFAC, FCVN, CRS, DVS & VACF (CRS)-- Welcome House
		ARR	McChord	05/07/75							

Summary of Flights to Continental United States:

-- 26 Operation Babylift Sponsored

-- 6 Medevac flights

-- 6 Not Operation Babylift (3 World Airways unauthorized flights; 3 Pan Am regularly scheduled flights)

TOTAL 32

OPERATION BABYLIFT--SAIGON

OPERATION BABYLIFT--SAIGON

I. Late March to April 15

In late March, as the situation in Vietnam deteriorated, several agencies and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) raised with Dr. Phan Quang Dan, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of resettlement, concurrently Minister of Social Welfare (MSW), the question of evacuation of children in the care of the seven Government of Vietnam (GVN) authorized adoption agencies, who were already in the adoption process. Dr. Dan was sympathetic and on April 2 prepared a letter to the Prime Minister (Attachment 1) requesting authorization for the agencies to move overseas the approximately 1,400 children then residing in their nutiriton centers, child care centers, and foster homes. The Prime Minister signed this letter which became the basis for the adoption airlift.

A procedure was established. When an agency was prepared to move its children, it would submit a list to Dr. Dan's office. Dr. Dan, or the Chief of Cabinet, Dr. An, after assuring himself that the children were properly certified as adoptable (abandoned or formally released by the closest surviving relative or guardian), would sign the list. It was arranged with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) that this list would be sufficient authorization for the departure of the children from Vietnam. It was also agreed that escorts (except Vietnamese, French or Chinese nationals) would be permitted to leave, even without individual exit visas. In practise, it turned out that airport immigration officials were not fully informed through GVN channels of these understandings, particularly regarding escorts, and it was, therefore, often necessary to work out final details after the children and escorts had arrived at the airport. USAID soon advised the agencies to use only escorts with individual exit visas.

The Associate Director for Relief and Rehabilitation, ACRR, USAID, received the agency lists at the same time as Dr. Dan's office, and upon GVN approval quickly coordinated with MAC on arrangements and transportation. USAID and the Embassy arranged bus transportation from agency to airport. The ACRR staff participated in assisting with escort exit visas, loading buses, [illegible] by Vietnamese immigration exit stamps, accompanying agency groups through airport formalities and in loading airplanes.

The attached table indicates departures of agency-sponsored groups beginning April 5, Saigon time (the tragic C-5 crash was on April 4). Except for Holt International Children's Services and Friends For All Children on April 5, all flights from Saigon were by military aircraft (Holt's charter arrangement with Pan Am had been independently made before the C-5 became available).

On or about April 8, the MOI noted that the 1,400 authorization had been exceeded; our figures did not so indicate but apparently the MOI had included departures of some other children (with which USAID had no involvement), mostly to countries other than the U.S., and arrived at a higher figure. The question was raised (as it would soon have been in any case) as to whether the airlift could continue. Dr. Dan let it be known to USAID that he would continue to authorize departure of small additional groups of strictly children in the adoption process on a group by group basis. Mrs. Tisdale, after direct contact with Dr. Dan and several Embassy officials, and in part at least on the basis of an arrangement with the Pearl Buck Foundation (PBF) (a GVN authorized agency) was given approval to move about 212 orphans from An Loc Orphanage; Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN) was authorized to move 38 children who had been too ill to depart with their group of 217 on April 6; and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was authorized to move about 50 additional children, which was done on April 15.

II. April 16-28

With the formation of a new cabinet, not including Dr. Dan, the question regarding the adoption airlift was whether the existing procedure could be continued. Several agencies submitted additional lists to the new Minister of Social Welfare (Tran Van Mai) but the MSW made no decisions. The ADRR in personal discussions with the Minister urged him to continue the procedure and, specifically, to authorize the lists already in his hands. The Minister, however, said that any decision would have to be made at the Prime Minister's level. As the overall political situation deteriorated, it became evident that no further formal GVN authorizations of the movements of adoptable children could be expected. The Minister had, however, indicated verbally that the MSW would not object to, or intercede to prevent, further movements. On this basis, the ADRR advised the adoption agencies (except Traveler's Aid-International Social Services of America (TAISSA) and World Vision Relief Organization (WVRO) which had indicated they had completed their movements) that USAID would arrange transportation for those children remaining, on the clear understanding that the [illegible] remaining U.S. and third country national personnel would depart the country with, or shortly after, the children, [illegible] and the adoption activity in Vietnam.

The Operation Babylift was completed on April 25, 26 and 28, as shown in Attachment 2.

It should be noted that three unauthorized flights by World Airways, Inc., which transported orphans and other children, were not a part of Operation Babylift and are not included in this summary. The first flight on April 2 carried 45 FCVN orphans; the second on April 22 with approximately 104 children sponsored by Father Crawford; and the third on April 26 with 210 Montagnard children destined for Denmark under the sponsorship of the Danish Vietnamese Society (DVS). Also, this report does not cover those orphans who may have departed under the normal procedures on scheduled commercial flights.

Attachment 1

April 2, 1975

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

At the present time, approximately 1400 orphans have been brought to Saigon, and are being cared for by international welfare agencies prior to being taken to foreign countries where they will be placed with permanent adoptive parents. At present, operations of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Hamlet Building and the Interministerial War Victims Relief Committee have been severly hampered by some complicated situations, among which requiring immediate resolution are the problems the orphans cited above which must be handled in conjunction with many other important difficulties that we are faced with. Moreover, the whole question of collective emigration of this number of orphans mentioned above is further exciting world opinion, particularly in the United States, much to the benefit of the Republic of Vietnam.

Right now, there are two 727's belonging to World Airways that have been waiting all night at the Tan Son Nhut airport prepared to transport free of charge the emigrating orphans. Mr. Daly, the President of the above mentioned airlines is an international figure. The American Ambassador has also interceded with me to permit the orphans to leave the country together. He stressed, in addition to this emigration issue, how a million refugees and war victims fleeing the areas taken over by the communists would help to turn American public opinion regarding Vietnam, particularly the orphans arriving in the United States, given extensive TV and press coverage with narrated reports from witnesses of the situation, would have considerable influence.

If you agree, Mr. Prime Minister, to approve the emigration of the orphans mentioned above, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Hamlet Building will coordinate with USAID to carefully monitor and control the international welfare agencies' implementation of this operation.

Respectfully,

Nguyen Quang Dan

Marginal Notes

Approved (Prime Minister's signature)

National Police should be aware of the Prime Minister's decision and allow departure of children.

Signed CHAT

Operation Babylift Statistics

DATE	AGENCY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
April 5 (Saturday)	Holt International Children's Services (Holt)	400
	Friends for All Children (FFAC)	350
	World Vision Relief Organization (WVRO)	30
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	100
April 6 (Sunday)	Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN)	217
April 7 (Monday)	CRS	110
	Traveler's Aid-International Social Services of America (TAISSA)	98
April 11 (Friday)	An Loc Orphanage*	212
	FCVN	38
April 25 (Saturday)	FCVN	184
	Holt	34
	Pearl Buck Foundation (PBF)	70
April 26 (Sunday)	CRS	125
	FFAC	254
April 28 (Monday)	Vietnamese American Children's Fund (VACF)	66
Total		2338

Recapitulation by Agency:

Holt	434
FFAC	604
WVRO	30
CRS	385
TAISSA	98
FCVN	439
PBF	70
An Loc Orphanage*	212
VACF (CRS)	66
Total	2338

*Approval for adoption and transfer of children to U.S. obtained by Mrs. Betty Tisdale, President of An Loc Orphanage, Inc. (U.S. support agency).

OPERATION BABYLIFT

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

OPERATION BABYLIFT

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

I. Introduction

The Presidio of San Francisco was directed by the U.S. Army Forces Command to provide accommodations and facilities for the temporary care of Vietnamese orphans arriving in the United States from Southeast Asia. Initially, this came about following a request for assistance of the Presidio, from Ms. Charlotte Behrendt, daughter of Mr. Edward J. Daly, President of World Airways, Incorporated.

Ms. Behrendt reported that several hundred orphans were airborne on a World Airways aircraft from Vietnam and would be arriving at the Oakland International Airport on/or about 2200 hours April 2, 1975. The plane, a DC8 cargo carrier, arrived as scheduled but only 45 children were aboard. The aircraft left Saigon without approval of the U.S. Embassy and in defiance of an order not to take off from the control tower at the Tan Son Nhut Airport.

On April 3, 1975, plans for a full-scale airlift for approximately two thousand already in the adoption process orphans from the threatened Republic of South Vietnam were implemented by the State Department's Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense.

One thousand, three hundred and thirteen (1,313) orphans were received and processed at the Presidio (Attachment 1). This operation, which became known as SPOVO (Support of Vietnamese Orphans), was on-going from April 2 to May 4, 1975. In the interim, two other sites were opened in support of Operation Babylift: Operation Babylift #2, Long Beach Naval Support Activity, Long Beach, California and Operation Babylift #3, Fort Lewis, Washington.

II. Physical Facilities at the Presidio

Harmon Hall (#649) was designated as the primary site for the reception and housing of the children. This building,

a large gymnasium type facility, consisted of several large rooms on either side of a very large court. The main floor and the side rooms were able to accommodate approximately 350 standard size single mattresses. The mattresses were placed end to end in columns of twenty. At the end of each column a medical examination table was set up.

There was only one bathroom for females and one for males on this floor, and only two lavatories in each room. These washroom facilities proved to be totally inadequate for the activity that subsequently was generated.

Sufficient side rooms were available to serve as food service area, infirmary, isolation, and offices. A balcony on the second floor provided additional rooms, and except for a well-equipped and well-utilized play area, the rooms were not put to good use.

Within a four-day period, from April 5-8 inclusive, eight hundred and nineteen (819) orphans were processed at the Presidio. To accommodate the overflow from Harmon Hall, two additional buildings (#617 and #910) were organized and equipped to function as annexes. Both these buildings proved to be more functional than Harmon Hall.

III. Organization and Procedures

Colonel Robert V. Kane, Commanding Officer of the Presidio, designated Lt. Col. Jasper C. Horne, Director of Plans, Training and Security, as Project Manager of this undertaking. Lt. Col. Horne immediately responded with an organized plan which called for the Presidio to assume responsibility for communication facilities, housing, food service, transportation, equipment and supplies, and security. In all of these areas, the military characteristically responded par excellence.

To coordinate and assume overall responsibility for all other aspects of the administration of the operation, namely the identification, processing and release of the orphans, medical services, volunteers, records, internal communications, inter-agency liaison etc., an ad hoc planning committee subsequently developed into an incorporated organization known as Orphans Airlift, Incorporated.

The Board of Directors of this organization served as a resource and was made up of affluent business and politically influ-

encial leaders from the Bay Area. Without resistance from the Presidio, or from representatives of the seven official adoption agencies, who had legal custody of the arriving orphans, Orphans Airlift, Inc., literally took over and developed a power infrastructure that was never challenged.

Manpower for this management group was provided largely by the recruitment of many, many volunteers, including a group of U.S. veterans from Vietnam known as the Flowers of the Dragon. During the course of the operation, and within the organization itself, conflict, dissention and power struggles developed, causing unnecessary delay, confusion and frustration.

The First Plane

The first flight to arrive under the U.S. Government sponsored airlift was a Friends for All Children (FFAC) chartered, PAA 747, with 323 orphans aboard. This plane became known as the "President's plane," having the distinction of being met by President and Mrs. Gerald Ford at the San Francisco International Airport.

The children that arrived in that plane had the following characteristics:

--approximately 200 were under the age of two

--one third of the children had diarrhea on arrival

--sixteen had chicken pox

--about 145 had survived the C5A crash in Saigon on April 3, 1975

--ninety-nine percent of them were crying, dehydrated and in need of nourishment

--thirty were immediately removed from the plane, identified as being seriously ill and dispatched by waiting ambulances to pre-determined Bay area hospitals

Except for refueling stops, this flight came directly from Saigon. Subsequently all planes stopped enroute at Clark Air Force Base, in the Philippines, where all children were medically cleared, treated and/or hospitalized, and after about 24 hours, again became airborne. To further safeguard the health and welfare of the orphans, there were rest stops and reevaluation of health status at Guam and Hawaii before arrival at Travis Air Force Base in California.

Elements Mobilized for the Reception and Processing of Orphans

1. Inter-Agency Responsibilities

Agencies from the U.S. Customs Office, Immigration Service, and Public Health Service effectively coordinated their responsibilities with the military, voluntary agencies, and State Department representatives, to expedite the movement of the children from the airport to the Presidio and to their final destination.

2. Transportation

Convoys of military and chartered buses and ambulances were organized to transport the arrivals from the airport to the housing site, to the nearby hospitals, or to the departure point for on-going travel.

3. Identification System

All children before arrival at the Presidio were identified by means of a wrist bracelet with a code and number that corresponded to the code assigned to the bus providing transportation. A special code was used for children requiring hospitalization. This controlled code and number system, along with a bracelet placed on the child in Saigon, facilitated the identification, registration, and processing procedure. As Operation Babylift increased in magnitude, photographs and finger or footprints were introduced as part of the identification system.

4. Medical and Related Services

Dr. Mark Oscherwitz, a member of the San Francisco Medical Disaster Preparedness Committee, Dr. Alex Stalcup, Chief Resident in Pediatrics, University of San Francisco Medical Center, and Dr. (Lt. Col.) Fred Stark of the Presidio's Letterman Army Medical Center, were responsible for mobilizing medical resources in the community. Approximately 99% of the services provided by physicians came from volunteers in the civilian community. In excess of 300 physicians responded.

Fifteen hospitals in the Bay Area were mobilized to admit children requiring hospitalization. During the course of the Operation 186 children were hospitalized, 13.9% of the 1,313 processed. Patient days were in excess of 2,000. (Attachment 2)

Hundreds of registered nurses volunteered their services and functioned in direct care or supervisory roles. One hundred corpsmen from Letterman contributed to the medical and health needs of the orphans, providing service at the special ward set up at the hospital or at the reception centers.

With the arrival of each plane, a primary triage, cursory but skilled, was done on the aircraft by a team of pediatricians. Children not in need of immediate hospitalization were carried aboard a designated bus by volunteer "lappers" where they were fitted with the coded bracelet, identified and registered before being transported to the Presidio--approximately a thirty minute drive from the airport. Enroute they were diapered, hydrated, and nourished.

A secondary triage was done at the Presidio. This consisted of a very careful physical examination, and prescribing of medication, treatment and diet therapy. Children designated to be in need of further medical screening were referred to the nearby infirmary area where a staff of senior pediatric consultants provided expert advise on disposition of the children.

Major medical problems were identified as the following:

--dehydration, otitis media, impetigo, scabies, conjuctivitis, and pneumonia. Diarrhea was extant and of 203 cultures done, 170 were positive for salmonella.

A complete medical record was compiled on each orphan. To assure continuity of care, and with the frequent turnover of volunteers during a 24-hour period, intake and output records and progress notes were maintained. Upon medical clearance, representatives of the adoption agencies initiated the final procedures for the removal of the children from the Presidio. A copy of the report of the final physical examination left with each orphan.

Medical Supplies, Food and Other Supportive Services

Pharmaceuticals and basic medical-surgical supplies, stocked in abundance, were secured through the Letterman Army Medical Center Logistical system.

Mead-Johnson donated hundreds of cases of electrolite solutions, soya formula, Similiac and Enfamil.

Thousands of disposable diapers were used daily. Large quantities of personal care items came from many sources. Clothing, all sizes and styles, was provided by the Salvation Army. Food service for the older youngsters and all personnel involved was provided on the site. This in itself was a tremendous undertaking. An abundance of food and a variety of beverages, were available 24 hours a day. Although the food was secured from the Army Commissary, and prepared by mess staff, the Golden Gate Chapter of the American Red Cross assumed all responsibility for the food costs.

Unfortunately, the absence of an organized dining area for the children and staff, especially in Harmon Hall, created major housekeeping and sanitation problems.

Volunteers

Several thousand volunteers and support personnel were involved in this project. The Presidio reported that at least one thousand of their personnel performed. An additional 1,500 military or dependent volunteers were recruited by the Army Community Services. The Golden Gate Chapter of the American Red Cross also played a significant role in the recruitment of hundreds of volunteers. The community response and interest in supporting this activity was overwhelming.

Security and the Press

Military security guards restricted the entry into the buildings where the children were housed to those persons authorized by the military, the adoption agencies, and the Red Cross. Access passes were controlled by the Army Community Services and entrance to the buildings was prohibited unless a valid pass was exhibited. Removal of orphans from the buildings was rigidly controlled to prevent kidnapping, and limited to those authorized by the adoption agencies to do so.

Correspondents from national and local news media were on the post during the entire operation. Building #908 was established as a press center and news conferences were held here. Major public affairs responsibilities were assumed by spokesmen from the sponsoring agencies or by representatives of Orphans Airlift, Inc. The Presidio assumed public affairs responsibility only in those areas relating to Army involvement.

Despite the high community interest in Operation Babylift and the characteristic over-zealousness of news correspondents, the group was well controlled and did not become obstructive or obstreperous. They productively achieved their objectives in a cooperative effort.

IV. Assessment of the Operation

The command, the Presidio of San Francisco, charged with the mission of providing accommodations and facilities for the temporary care of orphans arriving from Southeast Asia, and assisted by thousands of volunteers from the military and civilian communities, voluntary agencies, and private enterprise in the Bay area, successfully executed what might have been impossible for any institution outside of the military.

The 1,313 orphans received and processed at the Presidio constituted approximately 50% of those airlifted, and represented more than two times as many of those processed elsewhere.

The project was not initiated and completed without cost. It evolved with great haste and suffered from the lack of advance information on the magnitude of the task. There was no precedent for planning for an emergency of this nature and hence, operating procedures were developed as the need for them became apparent.

At the very onset of the activity, a communications problem existed which was never resolved. The Presidio assumed that it was to perform a "hotel keeping" function only, and they never wavered from this stand. This left a tremendous gap on who had responsibility for planning, organizing and coordinating all the other activities not related to hotel services. Orphans Airlift Inc. emerged as an administrative entity to fill the gap, and with a hastily conceived and planned course, without sanction, moved in and literally controlled the operation.

Although the performance of Orphans Airlift Inc. lacked lustre and sophistication, and problems developed that could have been avoided, in the absence of any other jurisdiction willing to assume overall control and responsibility for the entire operation, in retrospect, it can be concluded that the group made a substantive contribution to the success of Operation Babylift.

The Presidio of San Francisco, the military community, the thousands of volunteers from all walks of life, the Golden Gate Chapter of the American Red Cross, the sponsoring adoption agencies, the Bay Area hospitals, the medical and allied professions, the Mead-Johnson company, and many others in the community, are cited and commended for a job well done.

Operation Babylift

Children Processed - by Agency

Presidio, San Francisco (PSF)

AGENCY	CHILDREN
Catholic Relief Services	204
Danish Vietnamese Society	210
Friends of Children of Vietnam	161
Friends for All Children	459
Traveler's Aid-International Social Services of America	96
Pearl S. Buck Foundation	35
World Vision Relief Organization	30
Father Crawford	104*
Agency not indicated Presidio records	14**
	1,313

* Those under 18 years of age from Presidio records

** Includes three of the four children currently in the Bay Area for whom agency identify is unknown. The fourth child was not processed through PSF.

Hospitalization of Orphans

Presidio San Francisco

According to materials provided by Operation Orphan Airlift, 183 (13.9%) children of 1313 processed through PSF were hospitalized in 15 Bay Area hospitals. Unfortunately we do not have records showing why children were admitted. As in the other reception centers malnutrition, dehydration, diarrhea and virus infections were the most frequent reasons. A breakdown of hospitals showing numbers of children served and day care is as follows:

HOSPITAL	CHILDREN	DAYS CARE	COMMENTS
Children's/Oakland	13	89	
Oakland Naval	13	137	
St. Mary's	1	10	
Children's/SF	12	82	
Mills	7	63	DD1 TX'ed to UCMC/SF
Peninsula	6	12	
Mt. Zion	12	84	DD1 and WWW 12 still in as of June 10, 1975
Kaiser/Oakland	5	19	
Kaiser/SF	9	64	
Meren General	5	21	BB3 TX'ed to SFGH
NC Med Center SF	24	156	SK2 still in as of June 10. DD1 TX'ed to Mt. Zion
St. Luke's	8	90	
Letterman	34	114	
SF General	21	157	
Mary's Help	16	88	
	186*	1,186	

*Actual children hospitalized: 183 (186 - 3 multiple admissions: DD 1 from Mills to UCMC/SF to Mt. Zion still there + BB 2 from Meren General Hospital to SFGH = 183).

OPERATION BABYLIFT

LONG BEACH NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, CALIFORNIA

OPERATION BABYLIFT

LONG BEACH NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, CALIFORNIA

I. Introduction

Long Beach Naval Support Activity (LBNSA) was alerted on April 3 to prepare and organize essential services for the temporary shelter of orphans evacuated from Southeast Asia in support of Operation Babylift.

Overall responsibility for the operation, logistic support, and security was assumed by LBNSA. Medical support, 24 hour medical and nursing staff, and medical liaison with the civilian community, was delegated to the Naval Regional Medical Center. Recruitment of civilian volunteers, their assignment and deployment, became the responsibility of the Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The first flight of orphans arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport on April 12. LBNSA, prior to the planes' arrival had been assured that both security and the press would be well-organized and under the control of local civilian officials. However, with the arrival of the plane, a 747 with 328 orphans aboard, this control broke down and unrestrained movement of the curious, the press and airport personnel resulted. Subsequent airlift flights arrived at the Naval Air Station at Los Alamitos.

Fort Lewis Army Installation at Fort Lewis, Washington, was activated on April 29 as Operation Babylift, No. III, and Operation Babylift at Long Beach was phased out on May 3.

A total of 452 orphans were processed at LBNSA during the three weeks the center was in operation (Attachment 1).

II. Physical Facilities

A large, well-lighted and well-ventilated gymnasium was designated as the area to serve as the Long Beach reception site. The court was able to accommodate 300 cot-size mattresses with adequate passageways and working space for those providing service. Adjacent, adjoining and nearby rooms were easily converted or were already equipped to serve as bathing and toilet facilities, reception, offices, dining and food services, laundry, and physical examination and treatment areas.

III. Processing Procedures

A. AT THE AIRPORT - Prior to the arrival of the scheduled aircraft, a convoy of military buses and ambulances, with essential equipment, supplies and personnel, were on hand to transport the children to their destination.

With the arrival of the plane, government officials, including representatives from Customs, Immigration and Public Health, boarded the aircraft to carry out their respective responsibilities. At the same time, an emergency medical triage team of pediatricians from the Naval Regional Medical Center boarded the plane. After a preliminary examination, those identified as being acutely ill and in need of hospitalization were furnished with wrist bracelets, registered, and removed from the aircraft to the waiting ambulances and transported to a predetermined hospital.

Upon completion of the primary triage effort, the remaining children were identified with a controlled code number wrist bracelet that corresponded to the assigned mattress at the housing site. Volunteer "lappers," in single file, boarded the front ramp of the plane, received their child, departed by the rear ramp, and boarded an assigned bus for transportation to the reception site at LBNSA--approximately a 30 minute drive. Enroute, the children were diapered, hydrated and nourished.

B. AT THE GYMNASIUM--MEDICAL & RELATED SERVICES - Upon arrival, unless there were obvious contraindications, each child was carefully bathed and shampooed with Kwell--specific therapy for scabies and pediculosis.

Complete physical examinations were done, repeated as necessary, treatment prescribed, and special diet therapy ordered as indicated. An individual medical record was established on each admission; a copy left with the child upon departure from the facility.

Within six hours from the time the children arrived at this site, approximately 90% were medically cleared and ready for final processing by the adoption agencies for onward travel.

Of the 452 children received at this facility, 74 or approximately 17% required hospitalization. Major causes were--

dehydration, diarrhea, otitis media, upper respiratory infections and suppurative skin lesions. Twelve voluntary and/or private hospitals in the Long Beach/Los Angeles area were utilized, in addition to the Naval Regional Medical Center. (Attachment 2)

C. PERSONNEL - In addition to the dedicated performance of the team of physicians, nurses, corpsmen and administrative personnel from the Naval Regional Medical Center, who staffed the facility 24 hours a day, either in direct or supervisory service roles, many others played an important and significant role in this humanitarian undertaking. Administrative, support, and operational personnel at the Naval Support Activity, and at the Naval Air Station also participated to the fullest with enthusiasm and marked efficiency.

The Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross made a very significant contribution to the success of this operation. Scores of volunteers were recruited from Red Cross registries and from the community--some were young; others were aged; both sexes were equally represented. Since volunteers had to be recruited at the rate of approximately four per child per day, as many as 450 volunteers were enlisted for a 24 hour period. The community response to this effort was truly inspirational and magnificent.

D. FOOD SERVICES - Twenty-four hour food service was provided for staff, volunteers and all involved in Operation Babylift. A simulated oriental menu was prepared for children on house diets. Large quantities of bananas, apples and oranges were consumed. Soft drinks were served instead of whole milk to preclude the possibility of untoward reactions.

Mead-Johnson provided hundreds of bottles of special infant formula, Pro-Sobee, and electrolite solutions.

E. TRANSPORTATION - As with all other aspects of this operation, transportation services were well-organized and well-coordinated with arrivals and departures. Motorcycle patrols from the local police departments escorted the convoy of buses when they departed from the airport and again enroute to the airport when the children were released from the housing site.

During the period from April 12 to April 30, eight Air Force flights and two commercially chartered flights transported the 452 orphans processed at the Naval Support Activity. Six of

the flights arrived at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station, one arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport, and one at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station.

F. SECURITY - Security was superb. In order to insure that the children in the gymnasium were secure from kidnapping and intrusions by the curious, a rigidly imposed identification system was established for operational personnel. Civilian police, marine guards, and navy security police manned all entrances and exits at the site and gates on the base. The press was very carefully controlled at both the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station and at the Naval Support Activity.

G. ADOPTION AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY - The children transported from Vietnam and Cambodia, with financial assistance from the Department of State's Agency for International Development, and received and processed at the Naval Support Activity, were in the custody of licensed international adoption agencies, or certified American agencies. Representatives of these agencies were responsible for the selection of orphans airlifted and their eventual placement and adoption in the United States.

At the housing site, and after medical clearance, and positive identification of the children and representatives of the sponsoring agency all orphans, with the exception of those hospitalized, were processed out in the custody of the responsible agency and/or adoptive parents within 18-24 hours after arrival.

IV. Assessment of the Operation

Under the very capable direction of Captain J.J. Meyer, Jr., Commanding Officer, Long Beach Naval Support Activity, a well-planned and successfully executed operation resulted. The Captain met every flight that arrived. He was always on the scene and available day and night. His willingness to assume overall responsibility for the operation from the time the children arrived at the airport until they departed from the reception site, largely contributed to the success of the project.

Special mention must be made of the outstanding performance of the project manager, LCDR M. Kemp, S.C., USNR. There were very few hours within any 24 hour period this officer was not on the job, and alert, despite the absence of rest, to meet the needs of the children, the representatives of the State Department, the volunteers, and adoption agency staff. He did a fantastic job.

Key personnel at the Naval Support Activity and medical services staff from the Naval Regional Medical Center performed productively, effectively and efficiently and worked long hours during the entire operation. Despite obvious fatigue, they were always energetic, accommodating, cooperative and congenial. Their performance contributed to the clean, quiet and secure environment, and marked by the absence of confusion and conflict.

The tremendous community response for volunteers, and their fine performance must be reiterated. The competence and dedication displayed by key staff from the Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross and their recruitment and management of hundreds of volunteers, are especially noteworthy.

Although every single person involved in Operation Babylift at Long Beach performed in a highly regarded manner, and should be acclaimed by name, this is not possible or feasible. Principal agents for all of these people are:

Captain Joseph J. Meyer, Commanding Officer
Long Beach Naval Support Activity
Long Beach, California

LCDR Melvin Kemp, S.C., USNR
Long Beach Naval Support Activity
Long Beach, California

Mr. John Johnstone, Director Disaster Services
Long Beach Chapter, American Red Cross
Long Beach, California

Attachment 1

Orphans Processed

AGENCY	NUMBER
An Loc/Tressler Lutheran Services	26
Catholic Relief Services	118
Friends For All Children	4
Friends of Children of Vietnam	197
Holt	30
Enroute to Norway	22
Directly to Adoptive Parents	2
Pearl S. Buck Foundation	1
World Vision Relief Organization	22
World Vision Relief Organization for Cambodian Children's Relief Organization	30
TOTAL	452

Orphans Hospitalized

Seventy-four children were hospitalized in 13 voluntary, private, or the Naval Regional Medical Center, hospitals in the Long Beach/Los Angeles area.

Hospital	Admissions	Patient Days
Los Angeles Children's Hospital	5	94
St. Mary's of Long Beach	2	65
Los Angeles County	1	7
Daniel Freeman	2	27
Martin Luther King	3	17
Harbor General/Long Beach	9	76
USC Medical Center	8	56
Little Company of Mary	2	24
St. John's	2	14
UCLA	4	107
Long Beach Memorial	27	294
Orange County	5	68
Naval Regional Medical Center	12	19
TOTAL 13	82*	868

*Eight children were admitted to one hospital and subsequently transferred to another. This accounts for the discrepancy between number of children hospitalized and hospital admissions.

On June 13, 1975, one child remained hospitalized in Los Angeles Children's Hospital. Nguyen Duc Phuoc, approximately 14 weeks of age, has been hospitalized since April 12. Prognosis is poor. Diagnosis--Severe and persistent diarrhea.

Diarrhea, malnutrition, dehydration, otitis media, pneumonia and suppurative skin lesions were the most common causes for hospitalization.

OPERATION BABYLIFT

FORT LEWIS ARMY INSTALLATION, WASHINGTON

OPERATION BABYLIFT

FORT LEWIS ARMY INSTALLATION, WASHINGTON

I. Introduction

When the Pacific Northwest was designated as the third area for entry of orphans into the United States, three U.S. military commands were immediately involved. The three commands, McChord Air Force Base, Fort Lewis Army Installation and Madigan Army Medical Center, are located immediately adjacent to each other at the original Fort Lewis Army Reservation near Tacoma, Washington.

McChord AFB was designated as the Port of Entry for the arriving orphans, and the first impression gained upon the AID/W representative's arrival in the area was that the Air Force Base as well as Fort Lewis and the Madigan Army Hospital were fully alerted and prepared for smooth and efficient processing of the arrivals.

A rather isolated area of Fort Lewis had been selected as the site for receiving, processing, housing and feeding the orphans, and for providing necessary security until their release to the respective adoption agencies for onward movement to designated adoptive homes. The site was considered to be ideally suited for the operation.

II. Operations

A. Organization - Under direction of the Director, Personnel and Community Activities, the Army Community Services Division, Fort Lewis, carried out the orphan care and processing work. Such an organizational unit was observed to be ideally suited and eminently qualified for the work inasmuch as the regular duties of that unit encompass similar activities.

There was no shortage of staffing, and it was obvious that those assigned to the operation, both military and civilian, had been relieved of all other regular duties in order that they might devote full time to the operation. Likewise, the security unit, food service operation, and transport, provided by the 593rd

Support Group, Fort Lewis, were well-organized and staffed, and as in the case of the Army Community Services, displayed a high degree of professionalism and humanitarianism throughout.

B. Arrival of Orphans - It was learned early that in the best interest of the children the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Health examinations should not be attempted at the airport arrival site. Accordingly, promptly upon arrival of the flights at McChord AFB, the INS and Health teams boarded the aircraft for brief preliminary inspection. At that time any children who were obviously in need of hospitalization were immediately taken to nearby Madigan Army Medical Center by ambulances which were standing by on the flight line. All of the remaining children were removed to waiting buses and taken to the housing and processing site at Fort Lewis--a 15 minute drive from the arrival point. The INS staff then moved their operation to the housing site for final processing.

C. Physical Facilities - The area selected for housing, feeding and providing security for the orphans is one which is used seasonally as a training area. The buildings were in excellent condition; were well-heated, lighted and ventilated; and were so located as to lend themselves to very good security measures. In addition to berthing spaces for the orphans, the buildings included complete food storage and preparation facilities, mess hall, office and security buildings and an excellent communications system. Upon commencement of the operation it was obvious that sound planning and preparation had been carried out, including thorough cleaning of all spaces and excellent sanitizing of food service equipment and spaces, and of toilet and washroom facilities.

D. Health and Medical Screening and Hospitalization - The Pediatric Service of the Madigan Army Medical Center deployed a team of doctors under the leadership of the Chief of that Service, Colonel Carl Stracener, MC, to conduct careful screening of all orphans immediately upon their arrival at the Fort Lewis housing and processing area. Ambulances were standing by to transport to Madigan Hospital those orphans found in need of hospitalization. Numbers of children hospitalized, the conditions for which hospitalized, and periods of hospitalization are reported in Attachment 1.

E. Volunteer Assistance and Donation of Material in Support of the Operation -

1. Personnel - It was quite apparent from the outset that the highly competent and dedicated assistance by volunteers is a well-established program within the Army Community Services Division at Fort Lewis. The volunteer assistance included 100 to 125 volunteers each day for 24 hour care of the orphans. In the case of infants (a large proportion of the orphans), a ratio of one qualified volunteer to each orphan was provided. Under sound, professional supervision the volunteers carried out their tasks in a highly efficient, pleasant, and cooperative manner. These experienced volunteers were drawn from two principal sources--the Army Community Services Corps of Volunteers, principally military dependents, and from the American Red Cross Cadre of Volunteers. A number of the latter group were also military dependents. Further, the Red Cross volunteers included registered nurses present at all times. It is also worthy of note that, among the ACS volunteers, military dependents who were formerly Vietnamese nationals, provided valuable service as interpreters.

2. Material - The ACS had thoughtfully made immediately available a large stock of donated clothing of excellent quality, sufficient for complete re-outfitting of children from shoes to warm coats. The donated clothing was a valuable contribution inasmuch as many of the orphans arrived with only lightweight tropical clothing.

The food service operation in support of the orphans was characterized by a wide-ranging menu providing excellent nutrition, and included a complete assortment of infant formula material. It was most interesting and gratifying to learn that all of the food was provided at no cost to the Government. A cash donation in the amount of approximately $3,000 was made by the Vietnam Orphanage Project, Inc., (a non-profit independent organization originally established by U.S. military personnel in Vietnam which continued its operations and support after return to the U.S.) for procurement of food. In addition, several wholesale food suppliers in the area, such as bakeries, dairies, and food chains, made direct contributions of food valued at approximately $5,000.

A local toy store contributed toys of excellent quality in a value of approximately $2,000.

III. Orphans Processed

The orphans cared for and processed at Fort Lewis, Washington, arrived at McChord AFB on four Air Force flights during the period

of April 29 to May 7, and were under the auspices of three officially established adoption agencies. In addition, three groups of orphans arrived, each under escort of different organizations which had managed orphanages in Vietnam. The fourth and last of the arriving flights was a regularly scheduled medical evacuation flight carrying a group of orphans comprised almost exclusively of those who had been off-loaded from earlier flights for needed hospitalization enroute. Of all orphans requiring hospitalization upon arrival at Fort Lewis, a considerably greater proportion was from the latter flight of previously hospitalized children. Identification of all orphans processed is reported in Attachment 2.

After arrival of the orphans, no delays were encountered in the arrival of representatives of the respective adoption agencies. With exception of the few children who remained hospitalized, all orphans were processed out three days after arrival of the last flight for their final destinations.

IV. Assessment of the Operation

The operation at Fort Lewis, Washington, including the McChord AFB arrival procedure, the untiring work of the INS staff, the professional and humanitarian care of the children by the Fort Lewis Staff, and the dedicated professionalism displayed throughout by the staff of the Madigan Army Medical Center, was of the very highest order in all aspects. The ability of each Command and their respective services to respond to such short notice, and in such highly efficient manner, to the need for assistance in this humanitarian project genuinely reflects the highest tradition of the U.S. military services.

There is a pressing need to invite attention to the magnificent response of volunteers in carrying out the orphan project at Fort Lewis. In the entire career of this observer, at no time in any emergency need for volunteer assistance has the professional, technical, and humanitarian performance of volunteers equaled that observed in this operation at Fort Lewis, Washington.

A considerable number of people in a variety of skills is required to carry out a project such as this in the highly efficient manner in which it was characterized. Those who worked long hours in a tireless, selfless, and extremely dedicated manner in accomplishment of the task. Among those involved in key roles of responsibility were the following:

Major General John Q. Henion
Commanding General
Fort Lewis, Washington

Colonel Castel L. Pittman
Director, Personnel and
Community Activities
Fort Lewis, Washington

Lt. Col. Vinton K. Coor
Deputy Director
Personnel and Community Activities

Lt. Col. John D. Huntingdon
Army Community Services Officer

Captain Elwood R. Hamlin, II
Army Community Services
Social Work Officer

Hospitalization of Orphans

Madigan Army Medical Center

Fort Lewis, Washington

All necessary hospitalization of orphans who were processed at Fort Lewis, Washington, was at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis.

A total of 42 children required hospitalization. This represented approximately 19% of the children processed. The rather high incidence of hospitalization was attributed in part to the fact that the last orphan flight to arrive was Air Force Medical Evacuation flight of 42 orphans, almost all of whom had been hospitalized earlier while enroute to the U.S., and many of whom (40%) required rehospitalization upon arrival.

Conditions for which Hospitalized at Madigan:

Conditions, number of children hospitalized for each condition, and total number of days hospitalized are set forth below:

CONDITIONS	# OF CHILDREN	DAYS HOSPITALIZED
Pneumonia, with other conditions	7	19
Otitis Media	4	6
Malnutrition, with other conditions	5	36
Dehydration	3	12
Diarrhea	3	13
Gastroenteritis	3	6
Fever, undetermined origin	5	23
Upper Respiratory Infection	4	14

CONDITIONS	# OF CHILDREN	DAYS HOSPITALIZED
Hospitalized to Rule Out Suspected Conditions	4	7
Other Conditions	4	40
TOTALS	42	176

DEATHS

Two deaths occurred among orphans hospitalized at Madigan Army Medical Center. Both were infants who had been hospitalized earlier while enroute to the United States. The cause of death in the case of one of the infants was severe pneumonia caused by pneumocystis carini. The second case was under treatment for dehydration and salmonella infection at the time of death.

Attachment 2

Total Orphan Arrivals by Agency

ADOPTION AGENCY	NUMBER RECEIVED & PROCESSED
Friends For All Children (FFAC)	110
Vietnamese American Children's Fund* (VACF)	64
Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN)	19
World Mission for Jesus Christ** (WMJC)	23
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	4
Danish Vietnamese Society*** (DVS)	4
TOTALS	224

* Received by CRS and transferred to Welcome House for placement

** Received by FFAC

*** Received by Danish Consul, Seattle, for transit to Denmark

OPERATION BABYLIFT

TOTAL ORPHANS PROCESSED

OPERATION BABYLIFT

TOTAL ORPHANS PROCESSED

Agency	Number
GVN-Approved Agencies	
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	291
Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN)	421
Friends For All Children (FFAC)	575
Holt International Children's Services (Holt)	588
Pearl S. Buck Foundation (PBF)	68
Traveler's Aid-International Social Services of America (TAISSA)	96
World Vision Relief Organization (WVRO) (6)	51
Others	
An Loc Orphanage/Tressler Lutheran Services (1)	196
Cambodian Children's Relief Organization (CCRO) (2)	31
Danish-Vietnamese Society (DVS) (Enroute to Denmark) (3)	215
Father Crawford (3)	104
Norway (Enroute to Norway)	22
Vietnamese-American Children's Fund (VACF) (4)	64
World Mission for Jesus Christ (WMJC) (5)	23
Directly to adoptive parents	2
TOTAL	2,547

(1) Originally under sponsorship of PBF as arranged by Mrs. Betty Tisdale, President of An Loc Orphanage Inc., who obtained GVN approval for children to be adopted in U.S.

(2) Sponsored by WVRO--Cambodian children

(3) Transported on unauthorized World Airways flights; 45 FCVN orphans also on unauthorized flights not under Operation Babylift.

(4) Sponsored by CRS and transferred to Welcome House for placement in U.S.

(5) Sponsored by FFAC--placed by WMJC in Oklahoma

(6) Includes 23 Cambodian children

ADOPTION AGENCY REPORTS

ADOPTION AGENCY REPORTS[1]

STATUS OF OPERATION BABYLIFT
AS OF: July 22, 1975

(Percentages based on total number of children updated, unless otherwise indicated.)

I. Children by Age and Sex[2]

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-1	605 (7) (27.5%)	536 (4) (24.3%)	1141 (11) (51.8%)
2-4	282 (8) (12.8%)	166 (4) (7.5%)	448 (12) (20.3%)
5-8	254 (9) (11.5%)	172 (2) (7.8%)	426 (11) (19.3%)
9-12	96 (15) (4.4%)	60 (2.7%)	156 (15) (7.1%)
13 +	18 (4) (.8%)	15 (1) (.7%)	33 (5) (1.5%)
Total	1255 (43) (57%)	949 (11) (43%)	2204 (54) (100%)

II. Racially Mixed Children: 451 (20%)

Black paternity: 173 (39.2% of racially mixed)

Black adoptive homes: 34 (19.6% of those with black paternity)

III. Children Placed in Adoptive Homes: 2052 (93.1%)[3]

Assigned to but not yet placed with adoptive families: 29
(See attached table of state/country of placement)

IV. Children in Temporary Placements: 138 (6.3%) [3]

Foster Home: 124 Hospital 14 Other (specify) N/A

V. Children Departed to or Destined for Another Country: 365 (19%)

(See attached table)

AGENCIES REPORTING BY DATE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN:

U.S. Catholic Conference:	7/22/75	291	WMJC:	5/01/75	23
Pearl Buck Foundation:	5/14/75	68	FFAC:	6/17/75	575
World Vision:	5/16/75	51	FCVN:	6/19/75	421
Tressler:	5/27/75	196	Holt:	5/22/75	388
Welcome House:	6/11/75	64	TAISSA:	5/13/75	96
			CCRO:	6/19/75	31

(1) Does not include Father Crawford's Group (104 children), Danish-Vietnamese Society (215 Montagnard children enroute to Denmark, or 22 children to Norway)
(2) Includes Cambodian Children indicated in Parenthesis
(3) As of dates of Agencies reports.

OPERATION BABYLIFT PLACEMENTS
BY STATE/COUNTRY
AS OF: July 22, 1975

STATE:

Alabama	5	Maine	9	Oregon	74
Alaska		Maryland	35	Pennsylvania	237
Arizona	8	Massachusetts	70	Rhode Island	6
Arkansas	1	Michigan	117	South Carolina	6
California	189	Minnesota	73	South Dakota	4
Colorado	81	Mississippi		Tennessee	3
Connecticut	28	Missouri	52	Texas	26
Deleware	7	Montana		Utah	6
Florida	37	Nebraska	33	Vermont	8
Georgia	44	Nevada		Virginia	21
Hawaii	6	New Hampshire		Washington	57
Idaho	1	New Jersey	50	West Virginia	1
Illinois	36	New Mexico	2	Wisconsin	42
Indiana	24	New York	158	Wymoning	3
Iowa	37	North Carolina	6	District of Columbia	9
Kansas	12	North Dakota	8	Guam	1
Kentucky	8	Ohio	31	Puerto Rico	
Louisiana	2	Oklahoma	23		

COUNTRY:

Argentina	1	Italy	30
Belgium	3	Luxembourg	7
Canada	15	Mexico	1
England	12	Monoco	1
Finland	7	Netherlands	9
France	205	Sweden	16
Germany	48	Switzerland	10

ADOPTION PROCESSING AND TRANSPORTATION FEE PRACTICES

OPERATION BABYLIFT PLACEMENTS

Agency	Processing Fee	Transportation Fee
Catholic Relief Services	Not yet established. Each diocesean program has its own fee policy.	None except U.S. in-country flights where applicable.
Friends For All Children	$350 to $825 adjusted according to income. Cooperating agencies outside of Colorado may charge study/supervision.	An amount equivalent to what it would have cost had the children arrived on commercial flights. Families are being told that these fees are being used to cover administrative expenses directly related to Operation Babylift.
Friends of Children of Vietnam	$800 for each single or multiple placement. Cooperating agencies outside of Colorado may charge study/observation.	U.S. in-country escort travel costs where applicable are figured into the processing fee.
Holt International Children's Services	4 percent of adjusted gross income as reflected on most recent IRS 1040.	Overseas charter flight costs plus some transported from Long Beach to Portland is prorated and charged to families. Upon receipt of government reimbursement for April 5, charter flight funds will be returned to families.
Pearl S. Buck Foundation	$500 - $1,200 depending upon actual expenses incurred in preplacement and administrative costs.	Charged only to those families adopting the 18 children arriving on April 5 Holt charter. Costs vary from $430 - $450 and will be returned by Holt when they receive government reimbursement.

ORPHANS PROCESSED AND

HOSPITALIZED--WEST COAST CENTERS

Agency	Processing Fee	Transportation Fee
Traveler's Aid-International Social Services of America	$450 - $1,500 adjusted according to income.	Some San Francisco to either Los Angeles or Seattle costs charged to families. Advance transportation money had been deposited by some families and will be returned.
Tressler-Lutheran Service Associates, Inc.	Pennsylvania families $100 - $300, out-of-state families $100 - $200. Out-of-state cooperating agencies may also charge a study/ supervision fee.	$45 - $65 for children transported from Georgia to the Northeast U.S.
Welcome House	$500 for each placement (either single or multiple). Out-of-state cooperating agencies may also charge a study/ supervision fee.	None
World Vision Relief Organization	Approximately $2,000 total costs for pre-placement care plus administrative costs.	None

OPERATION BABYLIFT

ORPHANS PROCESSED AND

HOSPITALIZED--WEST COAST CENTERS

Center Location	Orphans Processed (1)	Orphans Hospitalized (2)			
		Hospitals	Admissions	Patient Days	% of Total Processed
San Francisco	1,313	15	186	1,186	14
Long Beach	453	13	74	868	16
Fort Lewis	224	1	44	142	20
Totals	1,990	29	304	2,196	15%

Medical Problems: The main problems were identified as follows: dehydration, otitis media, impetigo scabies, conjuctivitis, pneumonia, malnutrition, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections and suppurative skin lesions

(1) Does not include approximately 588 orphans sponsored by Holt, PBF, An Loc/ Tressler and Father Crawford not processed through the centers.

(2) Does not include hospitalizations at Clark, Guam and Hawaii--the Pacific intermediary processing centers.

OPERATION BABYLIFT--DEATHS

OPERATION BABYLIFT--DEATHS, APRIL, MAY 1975*

Name	Sex	Age	Date	Cause	Adoption Agency	Location
1. Van Coc Ba	M	4-6 weeks	April 10	Septicemia	Not Known	Clark AFB Hospital
2. Vu Thi Thuy Binh	F	3 weeks	April 12	Not Known	Tressler/An Loc	Enroute to Long Beach, Cal.
3. Dorothea	F	8 weeks	April 12	Septicemia (post-op Mastoidectomy)	FFAC	Bay Area Hospital/ Presidio
4. Thai Van Thanh	M	Not Known	April 30	Not Known	CRS	Clark AFB Hospital
5. Lam Ngoc Ha	F	12 weeks	May 3	Aspiration Pneumoniasis	FCVN	Clark AFB Hospital
6. Nguyen Van Lieu	M	Not Known	May 20	Not Known	FCVN	Guam Medical Center
7. Gerte	M	16 weeks	May 20	Dehydration/ Diarrhea	FFAC	Madigan AMC Fort Lewis, Wa.
8. Du Buc	M	16 weeks	May 23	Pneumonia	FFAC	Madigan AMC Fort Lewis, Wa.
9. Nguyen Doc Phouc	F	20 weeks	July 2	Cardiac and Respiratory Failure	FCVN	Los Angeles Childrens Hospital

*Burials were undertaken by concerned military installations with knowledge and consent of sponsoring adoption agencies.